

CLAIMS

1     A solid porous surfactant body comprising at least  
5     60 wt% surfactant and having a density not exceeding  
       700 g/litre.

2     A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 1,  
10    comprising at least 75 wt% surfactant.

3     A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 2,  
       comprising at least 90 wt% surfactant.  
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4     A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 1,  
       having a density not exceeding 600 g/litre.

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5     A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 1,  
       comprising at least 50 wt% of anionic sulphonate and/or  
       sulphate surfactant.

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6     A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 1,  
       comprising at least 70 wt% of anionic sulphonate and/or  
       sulphate surfactant.

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7 A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 6,  
wherein the anionic surfactant comprises alkylbenzene  
sulphonate and/or alkyl sulphate.

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8 A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 1,  
which further comprises an ethoxylated alcohol nonionic  
surfactant of the general formula I

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$$R - (-O - CH_2 - CH_2)_n - OH \quad (I)$$

wherein R is a hydrocarbyl chain having from 8 to 16 carbon  
atoms, and the average degree of ethoxylation  $n$  is from 20  
to 50.

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9 A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 8,  
wherein the ethoxylated alcohol nonionic surfactant has a  
hydrocarbyl chain containing from 10 to 16 carbon atoms and  
20 an average degree of ethoxylation  $n$  of from 25 to 40.

10 A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 1,  
which contains from 1 to 20 wt%, preferably from 5 to  
25 15 wt%, of the ethoxylated nonionic surfactant.

11 A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the surfactant comprises anionic surfactant and  
30 ethoxylated nonionic surfactant in a ratio of from 1:1 to  
15:1, preferably from 1:1 to 10:1, more preferably from 2:1  
to 6:1.

12 A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 1, which contains not more than 40 wt%, preferably not more than 20 wt%, more preferably not more than 10 wt%, of inorganic salts.

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13 A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 12, which is substantially free of inorganic salts other than bleaching salts.

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14 A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 1, in the form of an assembly of particles of particle size greater than 1 micron and not exceeding 1500 microns.

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15 A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 14, wherein the particle size is within the range of from 200 to 1000 microns.

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16 A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 14, wherein the particles are of irregular shape.

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17 A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 14, wherein the particles are flakes.

30 18 A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 1, which contains from 0.1 to 15 wt% binder.

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19 A solid porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 18,  
wherein the binder comprises polyethylene glycol.

5 20 A process for the preparation of a solid porous  
surfactant body as claimed in claim 1, which comprises the  
steps of

(i) converting an assembly of surfactant particles to a  
10 cohesive state by heating and/or mixing with binder,

(ii) allowing the resulting cohesive assembly of particles  
to set to form a solid body.

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21 A particulate detergent composition comprising a solid  
porous surfactant body as claimed in claim 1, in a mixture  
or conjunction with one or more other solid detergent  
ingredients.

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